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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/024,661	12/13/2001	Khaled A. El-Ayat	ACT-320 COA	3214

7590

09/30/2002

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EXAMINER

LE, DON P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2819

DATE MAILED: 09/30/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/024,661

Applicant(s)

EL-AYAT, KHALED A.

Examiner

Don P Le

Art Unit

2819

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 6-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4 and 5 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). 9.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

Abandonment Withdrawn

1. Abandonment paper sent by the Patent Office (paper number 7) are hereby withdrawn as per phone interview on 9/9/2002.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seyyed in view of Patel et al. (US 6,414,518).

4. With respect to claim 1, figures 3-5 of Seyyed discloses a programmable a programmable I/O output circuit, comprising:

At least one fuse address driver (inherent given that a fuse driver is needed to program antifuse in figure 5);

At least one programmable voltage supply driver (inherent given that the integrated circuit provide several different voltages in the circuit for various standards);

Programmable output buffers (figure 3),

Means to program the input/output buffers to a desired configuration (the circuit to program the antifuse to have desired configuration in figure 5).

The apparatus of Seyyedy does not specifically show the buffer as an I/O buffer as claimed. Figure 22 of Patel discloses a buffer having both input (2220) and output (top) features for the purpose of delivering and receiving signal. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill of art at the time the invention was made to have implemented the buffer of Seyyedy with input and output feature as taught by Patel for the purpose of receiving and delivering signal as the same output node.

5. With respect to claim 2, Seyyedy shows a single circuit. However, there are many similar circuits of figure 5 in the apparatus of Seyyedy.

6. With respect to claim 3, figure 5 of Seyyedy discloses a set of programmable antifuse matrix cells (534, 536, 538, 540).

7. With respect to claim 6, figures 3-5 of Seyyedy discloses the buffer include antifuse matrix and programmable output driver.

8. With respect to claim 7, the means to program includes programmable antifuse matrix cells (figure 5).

9. With respect to claim 8, the desired configuration includes a plurality of I/O standards (see abstract).

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 4 and 5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

11. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claim 3, in addition to other elements in the claim, the prior art does not teach a circuit having a set of programmable antifuse matrix cell, each set of includes 16 programmable antifuse matrix cells.

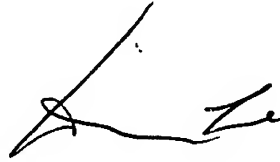
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Don P Le whose telephone number is 703-308-4890. The examiner can normally be reached on 7AM - 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael J Tokar can be reached on 703-305-3493. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7724 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Phu Le', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Don Phu Le
September 17, 2002